



Eurachem

How it all began

Alex Williams



Newton's Apple Tree, NPL Teddington



So off to London I went



So off to London I went
To an alien environment



So off to London I went
To an alien environment
And an entirely different
job





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And How did I feel?



Three factors that turned out to be important in setting up Eurachem

1. Interaction with Embassies in London and Overseas

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2. A Government White Paper on the National Measurement System
3. Setting up of Euromet

EUROMET

A European Collaboration on Measurement Standards

Established in September 1987 between

Measurement standards laboratories of Western Europe





LGC Teddington

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- No mention of uncertainty or traceability

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- We would need to for the market opening measures
- What could we do about it?



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Measuring up to the Competition

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster by Command of Her Majesty
July 1989*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Cm 728

£4.20 net

White Paper

The Need for an Analytical Measurement Initiative

Approximately 1000 million analytical measurements made a year in the UK.

Vital for

- ensuring the quality of goods and commodities
- for the development of Government policy in revenue collection, health and safety, environmental protection, agriculture and law enforcement et al

.

The Need for an Analytical Measurement Initiative

Clear need for an unequivocal means to demonstrate validity of analytical data

Creation of the European single market in 1992 has significant implications for analytical measurement

UK and other Member States will be required to accept each other's test data

Present evidence suggests that there is frequently lack of agreement as to the validity of this data

Waste of effort and money and may cause losses in trade.

The Way Forward in the United Kingdom

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Set up a programme aimed at establishing the validity of analytical data

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The Way Forward in Europe

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This enabled us to consult widely in Europe

Discussions in Europe

Doing this was initially quite difficult.

LGC carried out analyses on behalf of most of the government departments

Other countries each department had its own laboratory or other means of having analysis carried out on its behalf.

Different from physical measurement –generally one organisation involved

Discussions in Europe

Embassies identified the appropriate laboratories

Provided briefing on them

Set up meetings explaining what we wanted to discuss

Providing interpreters when they were required.

Made many journeys with a colleague Don Packham
sometimes visiting up to 5 organisations in one visit

First Formal Meeting

Held at LGC in October 1988

Representatives from Denmark, Spain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Geel Research establishment, BCR and European commission

Two of the of the representatives Dr R Kaarls from the Netherlands and Dr H Günzler from FRG both played a major part in the development of Eurachem.

Shortly after this meeting Dr Don Packham retired and his place was taken by Dr Bernard King .

Subsequent meetings in Delft in December 1988, in Geel in April 1989, and in Strasbourg in July 89

Name changed from Eurochem to Eurachem

Objectives of Eurachem had been finalised and stated that it would promote

- an awareness of quality problems;
- quality assurance strategies;
- validated methods;
- traceability through reference materials;
- proficiency testing.

The minutes proudly state as the conclusions of the meeting

Creation of Eurachem

Dr Karl's appointed the first chairman of Eurachem

. So there my story ends

There followed further meetings

Frankfurt in November 1989

Delft in April 1990

MOU you being signed in Frankfurt in June 1990

and others will carry it on from here.